

In regards to claim 4, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) wherein the first guide pin (50) is mounted on the first fastener (60) so as to secure the mounting plate (25) to the first fastener (60) (see figure 1).

In regards to claim 5, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) wherein the first guide pin (50) is tapered (see figures 1, 2).

In regards to claim 6, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) wherein the first spring (64) is a coil spring (see figure 2).

In regards to claim 7, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) wherein the first spring (64) is coaxial with the first fastener (60) (see figure 2).

In regards to claim 8, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) wherein the guide pin (50) protrudes from the mounting plate (25) to a greater extent than the connector (adjacent 28) protrudes from the mounting plate (25) (see figure 1).

In regards to claim 9, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) wherein the rear plate (24) of the tray further comprises a second rear hole (adjacent 68 on 24), the apparatus (22) further comprising a second fastener (62) mounted in the second rear hole (adjacent 68 on 24); a second spring (65) mounted on the second rear hole (adjacent 68 on 24); wherein the mounting plate (25) is mounted on the first and second fasteners (60, 62) and the first and second springs (64, 65) (see figures 1, 2).

In regards to claim 10, in addition to claim 2, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) wherein the diameter of the second fastener (62) is smaller than the diameter of the second rear hole (adjacent 68 on 24) such that the second fastener (62) floats within the second rear hole (adjacent 68 on 24) (see figures 1, 2).

In regards to claim 11, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) further comprising a first guide pin (50) and a second guide pin (52), wherein the first and second guide pins (50, 52) are mounted on the mounting plate (25); and wherein the first and second guide pin (50, 52) protrudes from the mounting plate (25) to a greater extent than the connector (adjacent 28) protrudes from the mounting plate (25) (see figures 1, 2).

In regards to claim 12, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) wherein the first and second guide pins (50, 52) are tapered (see figures 1, 2).

In regards to claim 13, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) wherein the first fastener (60) comprises a first bolt; and the second fastener (62) comprises a second bolt (see figure 2).

In regards to claim 14, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) wherein the first bolt comprises a first shoulder bolt; and said second bolt comprises a second shoulder bolt (see figure 2).

In regards to claim 15, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) wherein the mounting plate (25) comprises a first mounting hole (adjacent 56) and a second mounting hole (adjacent 58); the mounting plate (25) is mounted on the first bolt and the second bolt such that the first bolt is positioned through the first mounting hole (adjacent 56); and the second bolt is positioned through the second mounting hole (adjacent 58) (se figure 1).

In regards to claim 17, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) further comprising a guide pin block, wherein the first and second fasteners (60, 62) are mounted in the guide pin block (26); and the guide pin block (26) is mounted to the rear plate (24) (see figures 1, 2).

In regards to claim 18, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) further comprising first and second guide holes (adjacent 50, 52) located on the mounting plate (25) (see figure 1).

In regards to claim 19, Milan discloses the apparatus (22) wherein the first and second guide holes (adjacent 50, 52) are located astride the connector (adjacent 28) (see figures 1, 2).

6. Claims 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nations (US391091).

In regards to claim 20, Nations discloses a module (14) comprising a connector (4) at the rear of the module (14), a first guide hole (38) located in proximity to the connector (4), wherein the first guide hole (38) is configured to receive a first guide pin (6) of a mating connector (2) located on the tray (16)(see figure 1).

In regards to claim 21, Nations discloses the module (14) further comprising a secnd guide hole (38).

4. Claims 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bittihn et al (US5538809).

Bittihn discloses the method comprising the steps of providing a tray, wherein the tray includes a mating connector (12, 13, 14, 15, 16), wherein the mating connector (12, 13, 14, 15, 16) is coupled to the tray by at least one spring (18) and wherein the mating connector (12, 13, 14, 15, 16) is mounted between first and second guide pins (11)/holes, inserting the module (it is inherent) into the tray until the first and second guide holes/pins (11) mate with the first and second guide pins (11)/ holes such that the first connector is aligned with the mating connector by the spring (18) (see figure 2).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. In Applicant 's argument, on page 4, the last paragraph, last line, the statement that "Figure 2 of Milan does not discloses an apparatus for the mounting of a connector" is not deemed persuasive; because Figure 2 does show 20 is mounting on 24, 24 is mounting on 26, 26 is mounting on 25.

7. In Applicant 's argument, on page 5, the first paragraph, line 3, the statement that "There is no tray present in Milan" is not deemed persuasive; because "the tray" is not positively recited and further it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. Ex parte Masham, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

8. In Applicant 's argument, on page 5, the second paragraph, "the tray" is not positively recited.

9. in response to Applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the Examiner recognizes that references cannot be arbitrarily combined and that there must be some reason why one skilled in the art would be motivated to make the proposed combination of primary and secondary references. In re.Nomiya, 184 USPQ 607 (CCPA 1975) . However, there is no requirement that a motivation to make the modification be expressly articulated. The test